

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ADANA 000188

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PINS](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [TU](#) [ADANA](#)

SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 14, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for October 14, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

RADIKAL/ZAMAN: AKP (Justice and Development Party) conducted polls in Diyarbakir to measure the effect of the Prime Minister (PM) Erdogan's speech in July concerning the Kurdish issue. %55.5 expressed "no solution in PM's approach" while %30.7 expressed that a solution would be found. %53.1 said that the intention of the government was not to find a solution. The report concluded that the Kurdish issue was a democracy and human rights question and Turkey's EU accession process was the most concrete thing which could be offered. The report expressed that the dominant Kurdish politicians rejected PM Erdogan's desire to solve the issue because the Kurdish politicians themselves had no concrete proposals to offer. The ratio of the responses and the questions to which the AKP sought answers are as follows:

Q: Is there a Kurdish problem in Turkey?

A: Yes %89.4

Q: What is Turkey's primary problem?

A: Kurdish problem %59.4; democratization %20.9; economy % 13.7.

Q: What kind of a problem is the Kurdish issue?

A: Ethnic % 37.9; political % 30.8; democratic % 12.4; cultural % 6; separatist % 6; economic % 3.2.

Q: Is there a solution to the Kurdish problem through PM Erdogan's approach?

A: No %52.5; yes % 30.7; have no ideas %16.4

Q: Is AKP sincere in the Kurdish issue?

A: No % 53.1; yes % 29.7.

Q: Are AKP's policies [concerning the Kurdish issue] different?

A: Yes % 37.1; no % 28.5.

Q: What would you say about PM Erdogan's meeting with intelligentsia ?

A: An effort to delude %30.1; an indication that he wants to solve this issue % 23.3; a turning point in Turkey's political life %11.9.

Q: What would you say about PM Erdogan's visit to Diyarbakir?

A: A positive development % 33.1; a normal situation % 21.3; hypocrisy %13.1; a delayed visit % 7.7.

Q: How do you evaluate PM Erdogan's "We solve this issue with Kurds whose hands are not dredged in blood" approach?

A: An expression of his desire to solve the problem %37.6; a desire to shift the issue to other areas % 26.1; pretending not to see the problem % 12.9

Q: How can the Kurdish problem be solved?

A: Kurdish must be let free and the ethnic identity must be recognized % 32; tolerance and reconciliation must be established in the society and clashes must be prevented % 12.3; an amnesty must be declared % 10.2; Ocalan must be freed % 5.5; [the government] must sit at a table with DEHAP [for negotiations] % 1.9.

Q: To which party would you cast your vote if elections were to be held today?

A: To DEHAP % 40.6; to AKP % 36.3; to CHP % 2.6.

Q: Would you give your vote to AKP if it solved the Kurdish issue?

A: No % 50.2; yes % 36.3.

Q: Which of the parties that have come to power has been most successful?

A: AKP % 33.6; the ANAP in the late Ozal's era % 20.4; none % 38.

RADIKAL: As a result of the fight that broke out in the Solhan township of Bingol province, 4 persons were killed the previous night and 13 others, including the mayor from DYP, were wounded. The fight is attributed to the hostilities that arouse between the rival families during the March 2003 local elections.

GUNDEM: The Van HRA (Human Rights Association), Mazlum-Der (The oppressed Peoples' Association), Bar Association and Goc-Der (Immigrants' Association) submitted reports concerning violations of rights in the region to the European Parliament's Sub-committee for Human Rights. The reports drew attention to ongoing clashes and operations in the region and said that villagers refused to return to the villages because they were exposed to pressure and forced to become village guards, underlining that the village guards were the main obstacle in village return. The HRA report focused on the police arrest of 85 persons, including 20 children, protesting in Van the attacks during a September 5, 2005 march in Gemlik; home raids; and violations at the Van Centennial University.

ZAMAN: During a skirmish between the GOT forces and PKK militants in the Oymakli village of Eruh, Siirt province, two militants were killed. Separately, security forces seized three pipe-type bombs in Mersin and detained two persons, including one female, in connection with the bombs.

HURRIYET(Cukurova): Based on a tip, the GOT forces launched an operation in Kilis arrested 5 persons, including one Syrian national, who were trying to smuggle 123,000 Captagon drug-pills to Syria. Police seized assorted weapons and ammunition for those weapons in the houses they searched.

SABAH/EVRENSEL: The "Sweep Operation" launched by GOT forces against PKK militants who have been determined to be in rural Tunceli continue. Special teams are being deployed in the rural Cirali village, where five soldiers were killed and four others were wounded. 10,000 troops are participating in the operation and F-16 fighters occasionally are flying reconnaissance missions to determine PKK militants' hideouts.

EVRENSEL: The Bingol Chapter of the Human Rights Association(HRA) was attacked on July 2, 2005. The President of HRA Chapter in Bingol, Ridvan Kizgin, filed a complaint with the public prosecutor. The Bingol Public Prosecutor rejected Kizgin's petition and decided that attacking the HRA was not a crime because the HRA is defending the separatist organization. Mr. Kizgin said that that decision justified any attacks to be launched against HRA administrators and members and extended an invitation for such attacks.

EVRENSEL: The Sirnak Governor's office announced that it would impose some limitations on the number of trucks passing through the Habur Border Gate during the period of October 13-16, 2005 because of Iraq's October 15 referendum on its constitution. No limitations will be imposed on the tankers and trucks carrying goods for the Coalition Forces.

SAFAK: The Diyarbakir Municipality is going to evacuate and pull down approximately 2000 slums surrounding the historic Diyarbakir walls. The residents in the slums will be given plots of land from Treasury Land on the Diyarbakir-Urfa road.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

EKSPRES/BOLGE: Adana Governor Cahit Kirac announced that the inspections undertaken by the Adana Provincial Agriculture Directorate in the places where immigrant birds dwelled, and analysis conducted on 15-20 dead chickens found in a truck coming from Balikesir, revealed that no disease would threaten public health.

REID